SO YOU WERE TOUCHED BY HIS SINCERITY?
THAT'S WHY...
YOU BROUGHT THIS LITTLE LOACH HOME?
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF
JADE WITH INTRICATE ENGRAVINGS
DON'T YOU THINK THIS LITTLE TOY LOOKS SO STUPID THAT IT'S ACTUALLY INTERESTING?
OH?
THAT HAPPY-GO-LUCKY ATTITUDE OF YOURS IS INFURIATING!
I WAS CHASED DOWN TWO STREETS.
GUESS WHY?
THAT FOREIGNER WHO'S THE LEADER OF THOSE GUYS IS YUNYAN'S FIANCÉ!
BOTH OF US THOUGHT THAT HE WAS A PERVERT... IT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE.
AND IT TOOK SO LITTLE EFFORT
TO LURE YOU INTO A SHOP AND GET SCAMMED
AS YOUR FRIEND, I CAN'T STOP WORRYING!
MEOW~

I'LL COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS WITH A FEW GOOD *JADE ORNAMENTS TOMORROW
SINCE I'LL BE HEADING FOR MY NIGHT DUTY AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE NOW
This fella!

*T/N Notes: Jade ornaments: Jade was intertwined with the philosophy of ancient scholars and the development and governance of early kingdoms that were shaping up in ancient China. Therefore, for a rich family, the offering of good Jade ornaments as payment was something that signified their wealth and status.

It's only a tiny, undated thing with an unknown origin...

Maybe...
I'll get someone to look for it tomorrow..

What place...
...is this?
...place is this?
Water ?
Don't tell me I'm underwater?
There are so many water ripples...
It's as though they're trying to tell me something

In those deep waters...
What's that?!
What's that?!

I felt indescribable sorrow.
when I saw an unfathomable shadow underwater...
What is it..?

Is it morning already?
But why's the sky still so dark?
Is it going to rain?
Patter
Patter
WHAT ARE YOU CHATTERING ABOUT?
Ah, your highness
WE'RE NOT, YOUR HIGHNESS...
IT'S JUST THAT THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE RAIN.
IT STARTED RAINING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT YESTERDAY AND HASN'T STOPPED.
WE ONLY FOUND OUT THIS MORNING,
THAT IT HASN'T RAINED ANYWHERE ELSE IN CHANG AN, AND THE SKIES ARE COMPLETELY CLEAR.

*Xue: Li Langye is the ninth son of the Xue King, Li Ye. Li Ye was otherwise known as Tang Zhaozong, the second to the last emperor of the Tang dynasty. A mansion in this case refers to the imperial sleeping/resting quarters.

IT'S ONLY RAINING
AT OUR *XUE MANSION...
EVEN THE EMPEROR IS ALARMED,
Look at that, even the imperial consorts are frightened! Color has drained from their faces.
HE SENT THE IMPERIAL GUARDS TO TAKE A LOOK!
IT COULD BE AN ILLUSION OR AN OMEN OF MISFORTUNE. HAVE WE OFFENDED THE WATER GOD?
YES, SIR!
XIAOYUAN! WHAT IMPERTINENCE!
DO YOU NOT KNOW HOW TO SHELTER OUR PRINCE USING AN UMBRELLA?

IT'S OKAY, XIAOYU-AN,
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN WET YET.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MANDARIN HE?
YOUR HIGHNESS WE HAVE RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT
A YOUNG FOREIGNER WISHES TO MEET YOU
HE SAID THAT YOU'D KNOW WHO HE IS IF WE TOLD YOU HE IS THE "OWNER OF THE JADE SHOP".
THERE IS VEHICLE WEAPONRY PLACED OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATES RIGHT NOW.
SO IT IS NOT VERY CONVENIENT FOR YOU TO MEET HIM THERE.
DO YOU WISH TO INVITE HIM THROUGH THE CORNER GATES?

HERE TO
COLLECT HIS DEBT!!
Gosh.
Oh gosh!
I did say I'd send my servants to the shop to pay for the goods, but I'd completely forgotten about it!
HAHA, YOU'RE REALLY A JEWELRY SELLER.
Haha
YOU'RE PRAISING ME TOO MUCH.
THAT WAS A DESCRIPTION FIT FOR PRECIOUS STONES!
THIS RAIN LOOKS BEAUTIFUL FROM OUTSIDE.
THE XUE MANSION LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEING TRAPPED IN A BIRDCAGE MADE OF SILVER AND GOLD.
ACTUALLY
I SEEM TO HAVE MADE A MISTAKE WHEN I PASSED YOU THAT JADE PENDANT LAST NIGHT
CAN I TAKE A LOOK AT IT AGAIN TO VERIFY IT?
...THAT... I ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED IT INTO THE POND YESTERDAY

Hey!
I'm sorry
I didn't mean to
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

EH? WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN GET SOMEONE TO LOOK FOR IT RIGHT NOW...
...AH?
ISN'T THE WATER IN THIS POND
A LITTLE TOO CALM?

WHEN DID THE COLOR OF THE WATER TURN SO DARK?
It's as though the water solidified completely into a dark green piece of old jade.
No ripples are formed even when the rain hits the surface...
There's no reflection of us in the pond?!
THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE JADE DRAGON, DOESN'T IT?
HAS IT BECOME A DEMON?
THEN... YOU WHO BROUGHT THIS TO ME WHO ARE *YOU, REALLY?

T/N: Play on words. 'You' here can also mean 'saint'. The question is phrased to refer to someone superior.

YOU DO NOT SEEM TO BE TRULY AFRAID, YOUR HIGHNESS
YOU CAME HERE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
I SELL JEWELRY
WHY DON'T YOU FAINT FOR ME TO SEE?
DON'T TELL ME IT WAS FOR YOU TO DELIGHT TO WATCH ME FAINT, WAS IT?
SO I'M AN EXPERT
HEHE
HEHE
I'M NOT A SAINT OF ANY SORT
I'M JUST GOING ABOUT MY OWN BUSINESS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I DO
IN MATTERS REGARDING JEWELRY ONLY

Open...
IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE
THE THING YOU MENTIONED YESTERDAY ABOUT IT BEING A TOOL USED TO PRAY TO THE GODS FOR RAIN
THIS JADE DRAGON, AND THE SMALL JADE DRAGON I HAVE LOOK LIKE THEY'RE MADE FROM THE SAME MATERIAL!
FROM NOW ON,
SHHH
JUST TREAT IT AS A MAGICAL SHOW.

T/N: This is a prayer used during the Shang Dynasty to call for rain.

HEY,
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING ...?
SFX: Hiss Hiss
SFX: Fzz
There's an exorcist doll made of mugwort...
...in the mouth of the jade dragon?!
Don't tell me he intends to...
SFX: Jam

I keep falling.
falling into a void
Where is...
this place?
I can hear the faint breathing
of the water plants... Am I
underwater again?

What's shining so brightly?
Fish scales?
This is...

...a dragon!
!!
I'm going to be eaten!!
SFX Bam
SFX Fizz

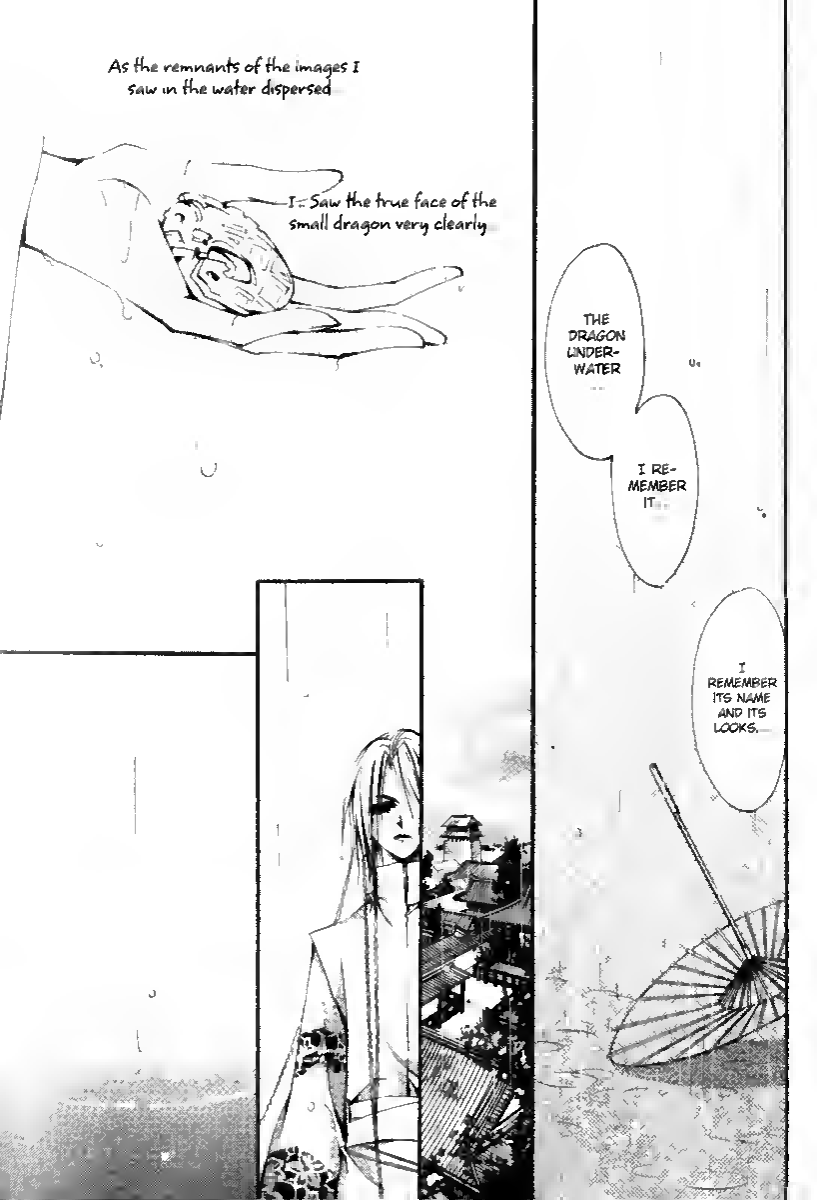
I'm all right?
Another dragon?

Is it protecting me?
A small dark green dragon... Where have I seen it before?
YOU ARE...
THE ONE WHO APPEARED IN MY DREAM LAST NIGHT...
SFX: Hiss

YOU'RE NOT HIS MATCH!
THAT HUGE DRAGON IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR US!!
DON'T BOTHER ABOUT ME! ESCAPE QUICKLY!
Is it too late?
SFX Hiss
SFX Hiss

A ball of fire in the shape of a human has been dropped into the water?
SFX FIZZ
What a strong current!
A huge wave has been created underwater!
The small dragon's going to be washed away by the huge wave!
WAIT

LOOK HERE
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE YOU?
DOES IT?
SESE


As the remnants of the images I saw in the water dispersed
I... Saw the true face of the small dragon very clearly
THE DRAGON UNDER-WATER...
I RE-MEMBER IT...
I REMEMBER ITS NAME AND ITS LOOKS.

IT WASN'T A DRAGON TO BEGIN WITH...

*T/N: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shan_Hai_Jing
IT'S AN ALLIGATOR THAT NEVER GREW TO ITS FULL SIZE, AM I RIGHT?
YES... IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE PEOPLE IN THE PAST WERE NEVER TOO GOOD AT DIFFERENTIATING...
ALLIGATORS, WATER SNAKES AND OTHER WATER CREATURES.
OUR ANCESTORS MIGHT HAVE CLASSIFIED THEM
AS DRAGONS IN THEIR IMAGINATION.
IT WAS ONCE WRITTEN IN THE MYTH OF "THE WORLD CONFLAGRATION BY FIRE CAUSED BY THE TEN SUNS OF THE OLD COSMOLOGY APPEARING SIMULTANEOUSLY" FROM "THE CLASSIC OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS" THAT
IN THE RAIN RITUALS CONDUCTED DURING THE SHANG DYNASTY, THE BODY OF THE HEAD SHAMAN HAD TO BE BURNT AS A SACRIFICE
THEY EVEN USED A SACRIFICE MADE OF MUGWORT AS A REPLACEMENT AT TIMES
FOR IF THEY DID NOT DO THAT,
THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO APPEASE THE DRAGON GOD OF RAIN

YOU SURE SUMMONED A POWERFUL FELLA.
The doll made of mugwort is gone?
AH! I FINALLY UNDERSTAND! THE BIG DRAGON WHICH TRIED TO ATTACK ME WHEN I WAS UNDER WATER IS THIS JADE DRAGON USED TO PRAY TO THE GODS FOR RAIN!
AFTER THAT, IT WAS SESE WHO TRIED TO PROTECT ME
IN THE END THE BALL OF FIRE WHICH WAS DROPPED INTO THE WATER
IS THE MUGWORT DOLL YOU PLACED INTO THE MOUTH OF THE BIG DRAGON!
SOB
WHY DID I GO THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE TO RESCUE THIS BLOCKHEAD ?
POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
If the doll hadn't arrived in time then we would have

IF THAT JADE DRAGON IS THE REAL TOOL USED TO PRAY TO THE GODS FOR RAIN,
THEN,
WHAT ABOUT MY LITTLE ALLIGA-TOR?
I'M SORRY
THIS IS SOMETHING I CANNOT COMPRE-HEND AS WELL.
WHY WOULD IT PROTECT ME? WHY DO I REMEMBER ITS NAME?
ALTHOUGH THE SKILL OF THE CARVINGS USED ON THESE TWO JADE DRAGONS DIFFER GREATLY
THEY ARE INDEED CARVED FROM THE SAME PIECE OF JADE THAT'S WHY THE SMALL JADE DRAGON HAS SOME ABILITY TO SUMMON RAIN AS WELL
MAYBE IT DIDN'T TURN INTO A DEMON,
BUT RATHER, SOMEONE HAD SEALED ITS SOUL INTO THE JADE CARVING
JADE,
IS A STONE WHICH CAN STORE MEMO-RIES AND PROMISES
ONLY THE MAKER OF THE JADE DRAGON CAN ENCHANT IT,
AND GIVE IT A NAME

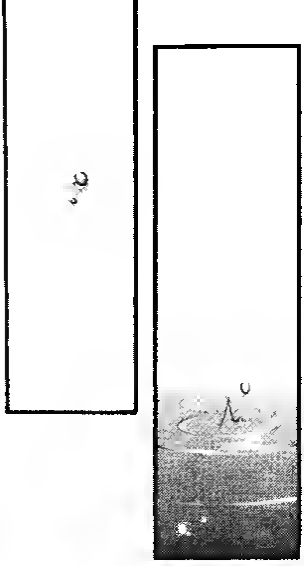
ALTHOUGH IT MAY SOUND RIDICULOUS,
THE MAKER OF THE JADE DRAGON MIGHT JUST HAVE BEEN YOUR HIGHNESS IN YOUR PAST LIFE
IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR IMAGINATION
THAT CAUSED IT TO CHANGE INTO THE SHAPE OF A DRAGON.
ACTUALLY ITS REAL APPEARANCE IS MUCH MORE ADORABLE
"SESE" - BEAUTIFUL SHADE OF GREEN
IS A VERY SUITABLE NAME INDEED
EVERY-ONE LOOK!
THE RAIN HAS STOPPED!
THIS MUST BE AN AMAZINGLY GOOD OMEN.
IT SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE EMPEROR!
THE SUN'S SHIN-NING AGAIN

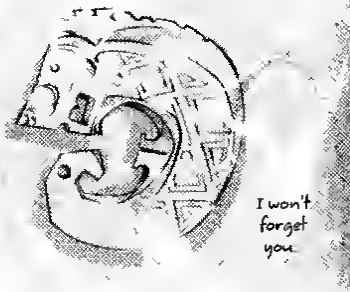
I HEARD THAT ALLIGATORS DON'T MAKE ANY SOUNDS
INSTEAD, THEY CAN CONTROL THE VIBRATIONS OF THE WAVES TO SEND OUT MESSAGES TO ITS OWN SPECIES.
THIS BOLT OF RAIN MUST HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY IT EXHAUSTING ALL ITS STRENGTH
DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING
TO LET YOU KNOW OF ITS LONGING
IT IS A FEMALE ALLIGATOR!
FROM TODAY ONWARDS,
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU MUST TREAT "HER" WITH EXTREME CARE...
*T/N: http://www.farrosa.info/dragon/daughter.html
ACTUALLY, WHEN IT WAS PROTECTING ME FROM UNDER-WATER,
WHAT FIRST CAME TO MIND WERE STORIES LIKE "THE DRAGON KING'S DAUGHTER"
QUITE A TACKY IMAGINATION, ISN'T IT?
EH?
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU?

Two thousand and thirty-one years ago...
SESE?
LOOK! THIS IS JADE FROM THE PLACE WHERE THE IMMORTAL IN MT. KUNLUN STAYS!
FATHER IS GOING TO CARVE IT INTO A DIVINE DRAGON,
AND IT'S GOING TO BE USED PERSONALLY BY *EMPEROR WUDING TO PRAY FOR RAIN!
ISN'T IT AWESOME?
I USED THE REMAINING MATERIAL TO CARVE AN IMAGE OF YOU.
DO YOU LIKE IT?
HEHE!
IT'S BEEN COMPLETED! IT'S BEEN COMPLETED!
SESE!

*T/N: Emperor Wuding was the twenty-second king of the Shang dynasty

LOOK OVER HERE QUICKLY...
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE YOU?
!!
HOW STUPID! YOU ONLY KNOW HOW TO EAT FISH,
AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...
ONE DAY,
I'M GOING TO BECOME A FAMOUS CRAFTSMAN LIKE MY FATHER,
AND MAKE THE BEST TOOLS USED FOR PRAYING!
BY THEN,
YOU WOULD HAVE GROWN UP AS WELL.
DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME!





Jade Dragon End

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HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP??
I KNOW YOU ARE IN NEED OF A MANGA FIX, BUT
Whoa! Don't vaporize out of despair!
THERE AREN'T ANY NEW RELEASES
THERE IS STILL HOPE. IT'S NOT THAT ESTHETIQUE DOESN'T HAVE MANGA,
ESTHETIQUE JUST NEEDS MORE TRANSLATORS AND EDITORS TO WORK ON THEIR AWESOME PROJECTS.
What?! Then let's hurry up and recruit more staff!
Temporarily revived
I NEED NEW RELEASES TO SHOW OFF MY USUALLY SUAVE SELF!